

# Fruits Basket

TM



The #1 selling  
shojo manga  
in America!

5

Natsuki Takaya

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For a springtime treat, Shigure arranges for Tohru and the gang to spend Golden Week at the Sohma's vacation home. On a rainy day, as the holiday draws to a close, who should make a surprise visit but Hatsuhiro! But what's that he's hiding in the bundle under his arm? Why, it's the 5th volume of the super-popular *Fruits Basket*!



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# Fruits Basket

Volume 5



Natsuki Takaya

# STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent when the Sohma family took me in.

I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!



# Fruits Basket™

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# Fruits Basket Characters



## Kagura Sohma, the Boar

Bashful, yet headstrong. Determined to marry Kyo, even if it kills him.

## Momiji Sohma, the Rabbit

Half-German. He's older than he looks. Mother rejected him because of the Sohma curse.



## Hatsuharu Sohma, the Ox

The nicest of guys, except when he goes "Black." Then you'd better watch out.



## Akito Sohma

The head of the Sohma clan. A dark man of many secrets. Treated with fear and reverence.



## Saki Hanajima

"Hana-chan." Can sense people's "waves." Goth demeanor scares her classmates.

## Arisa Uotani

"Uo-chan." A tough-talking "Yankee" who looks out for her friends.



## Tohru's Best Friends



## Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic hero of our story. An orphan, she now lives in Shigure's house, along with Yuki and Kyo, and is the only person outside of the family who knows the Sohma family's curse.



## Yuki Sohma, the Rat

Soft-spoken. Self-esteem issues. At school he's called "Prince Yuki."



## Kyo Sohma, the Cat

The Cat who was left out of the Zodiac. Hates Yuki, leeks and Miso. But mostly Yuki.



## Shigure Sohma, the Dog

Enigmatic, mischievous and a little perverted. A popular novelist.



## Hatori Sohma, the Dragon

Family doctor to the Sohmas. Only thing he can't cure is his broken heart.



## Ayame Sohma, the Snake

Yuki's older brother. A proud and playful drama queen...er, king. Runs a costume shop.

# Fruits Basket



Chapter 25



### ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 1

You know how whenever Kyo and Yuki meet, they say "I really hate this guy"? Basically, what they mean is "I hate him more and more every day." It's hard to convey the nuance... (I get a lot of questions about it.) But I think the rhythm works better that way, so I didn't change it.

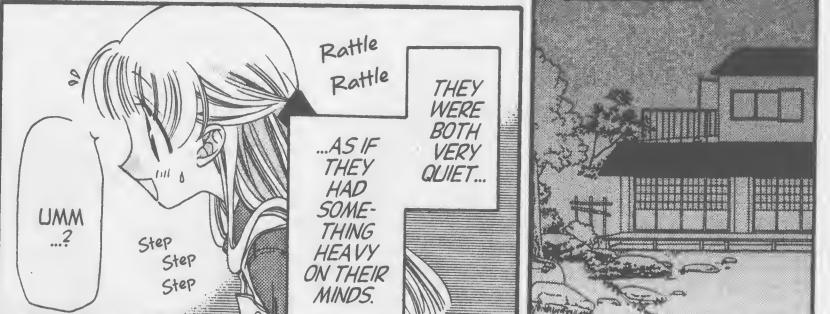
Sometimes, when I can't take the tension, I push the pause button.



Once I've won, I keep shaking.



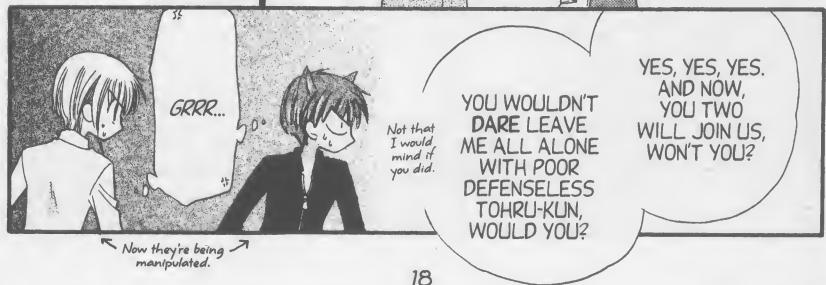


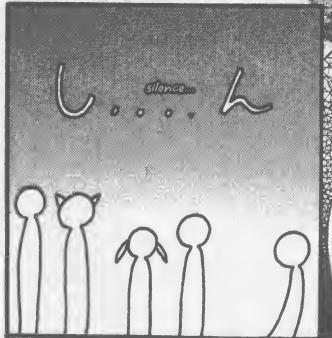
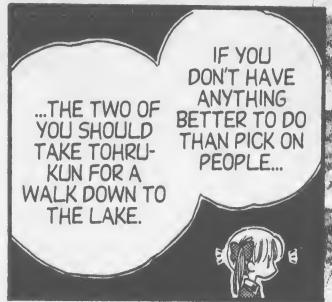


## Fruits Basket 5

### Part 1:

Hajimemashite and Konnichiwa! Takaya here. Welcome to Furuba Vol. 5. Wow, it came up fast. I don't see how I have the time... If you think about it, this is my 17th book, so only three more and it'll be twenty, won't it? (That's right.) It just blows me away. Now, about Kagura, our Cover Girl—her name sounds perfect the way it is, so I can't give her a nickname. It's like, Kagura is Kagura. Kagura's poses can be girlier than any of the other characters (to put it simply, she's a burikko—a childlike woman [is that term even used anymore?]), so she makes me giggle (how?). People who started reading my works with Furuba probably don't know this, but Takaya loves to draw girls. I really like drawing boys, too. I'm so happy! (laugh).





Left-sided steering wheel (meaning he's driving a Western car—Japanese steering wheels are typically on the right, like England)



flap

I'm going on a  
journey. Please  
don't look for me.

Shigure Sohma~

flap

flap

YOU'RE  
BEING MEAN  
TO YOUR  
EDITOR AGAIN?

DON'T  
TELL  
ME.



THEY  
SHOULD  
HAVE JUST  
GONE IN  
THE FIRST  
PLACE.

Those  
two.

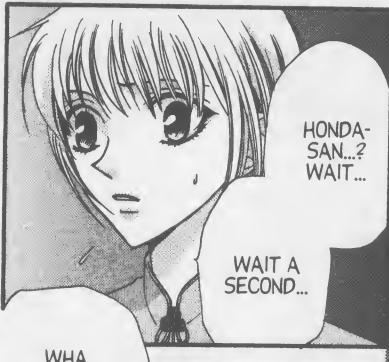
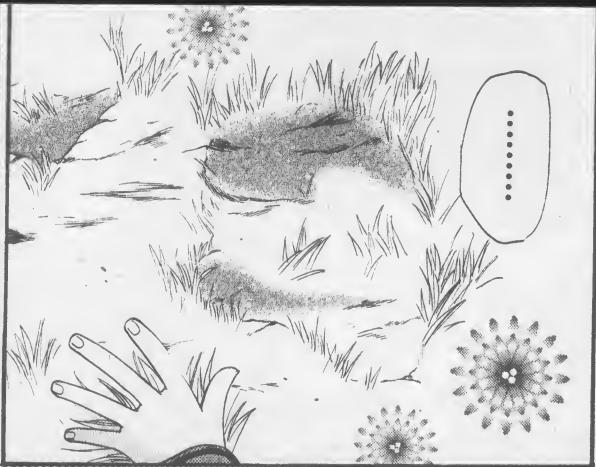
THEY'VE BEEN  
STRANGELY DOWN-  
HEARTED SINCE  
YESTERDAY.

SHIGURE.

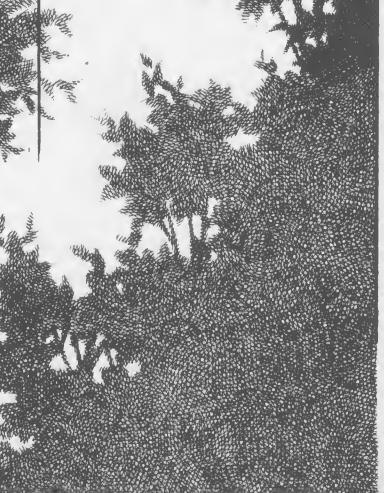
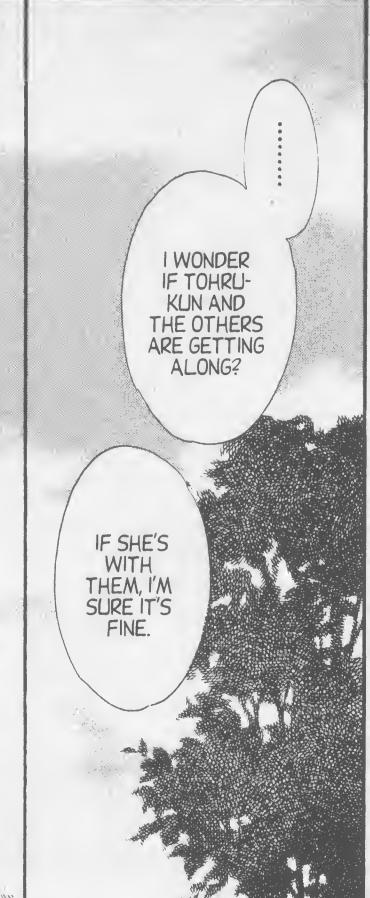
CALL  
HIM,  
AND  
I'LL  
KILL  
YOU...

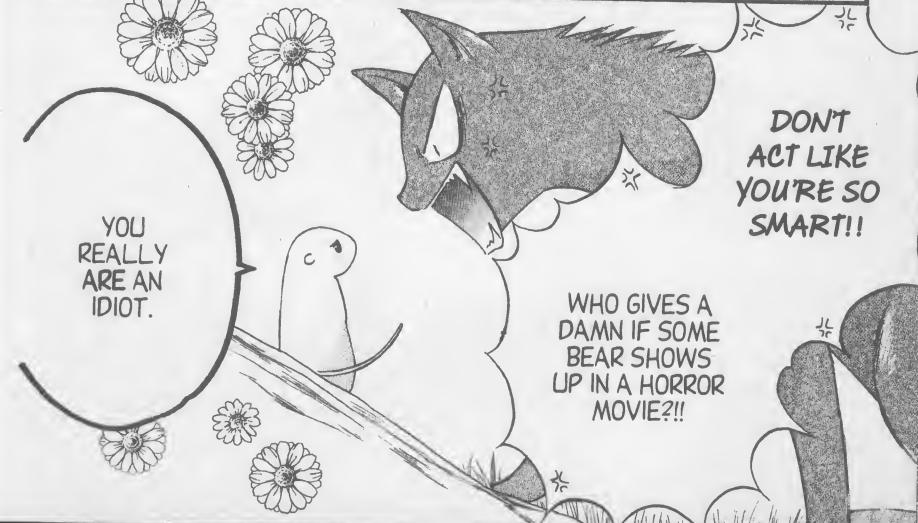
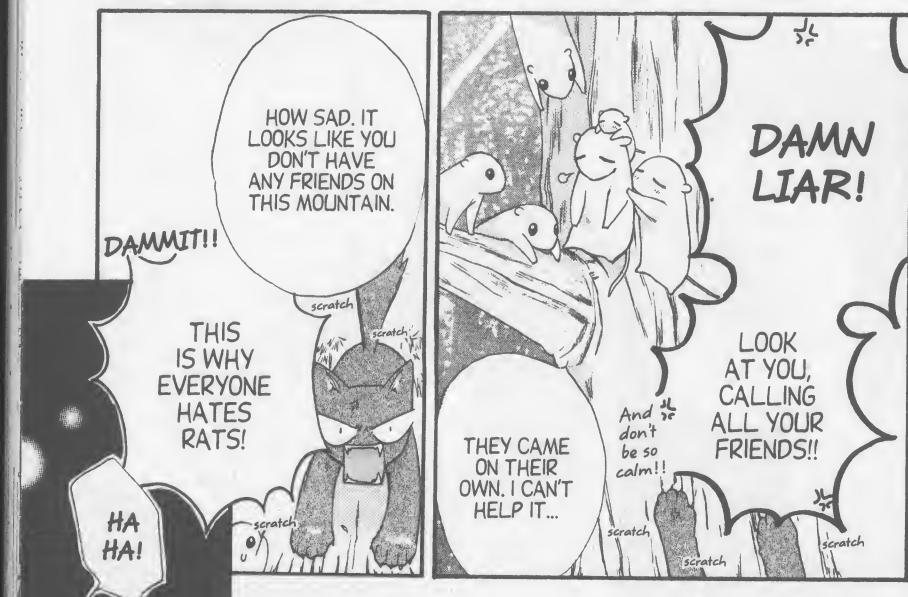
ABOUT WHY  
YOU SUDDENLY  
DECIDED TO  
COME OUT  
HERE...











BEFORE TODAY,  
I COULDN'T  
DO ANYTHING  
ABOUT YOUR  
FIGHTING  
EXCEPT  
WATCH AND  
WORRY...

...BUT NOW,  
IT GIVES  
ME SOME  
PEACE OF  
MIND!

IT'S  
STRANGE,  
ISN'T IT...

I JUST...

WHEN I  
THOUGHT  
THAT, I  
FELT SO  
RELIEVED.

HONDA-SAN...  
YOU WERE  
SAYING SOME-  
THING BEFORE  
WE FELL.

UM...  
WELL...

HONDA-  
SAN...

IT'S  
WEIRD...

AH HA  
HA HA  
HA!

HONDA-  
SAN...?

W-  
WHAT?!

AH!  
OH, I'M  
SORRY!

HEE  
HEE... AH  
HA HA!

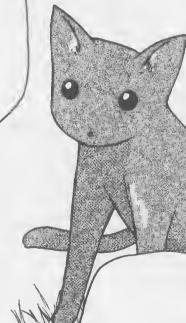
YOU'RE  
FIGHTING...

HEE  
HEE!

AAAHH...

...THE TWO  
OF YOU  
WERE BACK  
TO NORMAL  
AGAIN...

...LIKE  
THAT.



...I FELT  
RELIEVED.

YOU WERE  
FIGHTING, BUT  
I LAUGHED...  
THAT WAS  
RUDE OF ME.

B-BUT  
FOR SOME  
REASON...







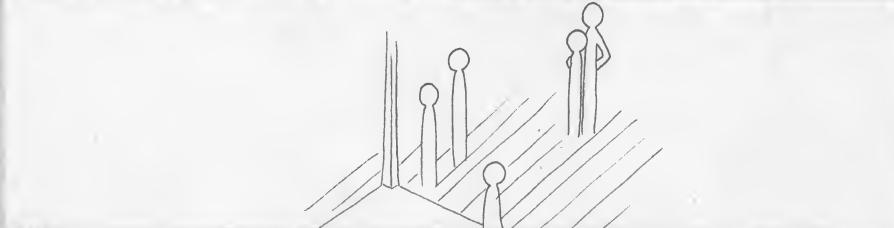
## Chapter 26





## ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 2

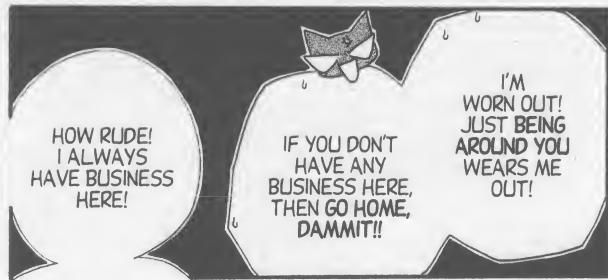
Hatori is pretty popular, isn't he? I can say this now, but at first he wasn't liked at all. So now that I've felt his popularity has gone up, I feel like it was worth it to work hard on him.



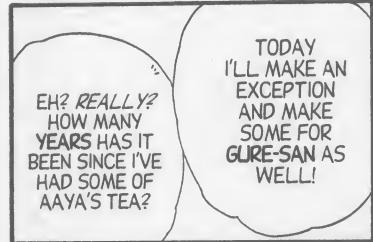


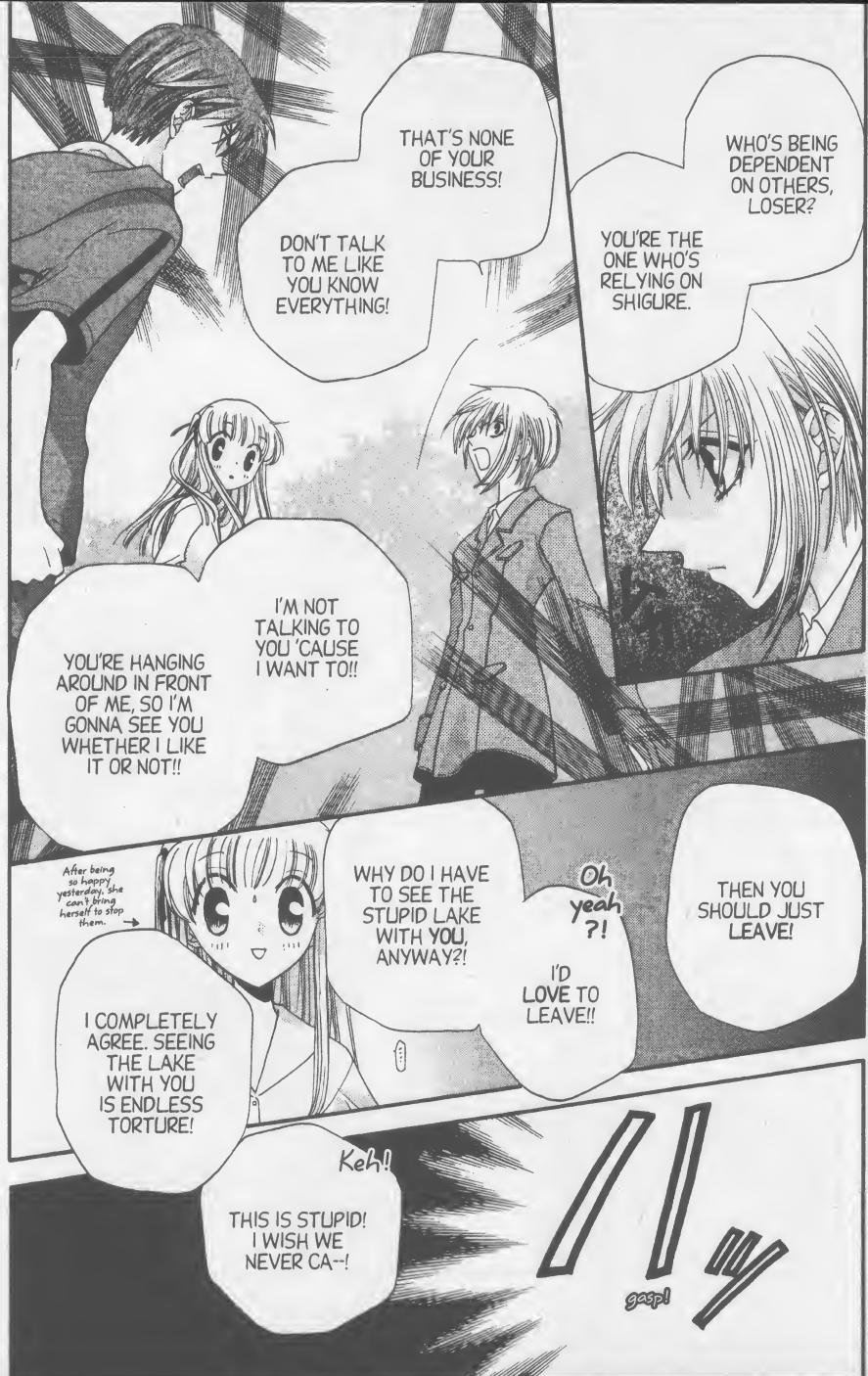
Fruits Basket 5  
Part 2:

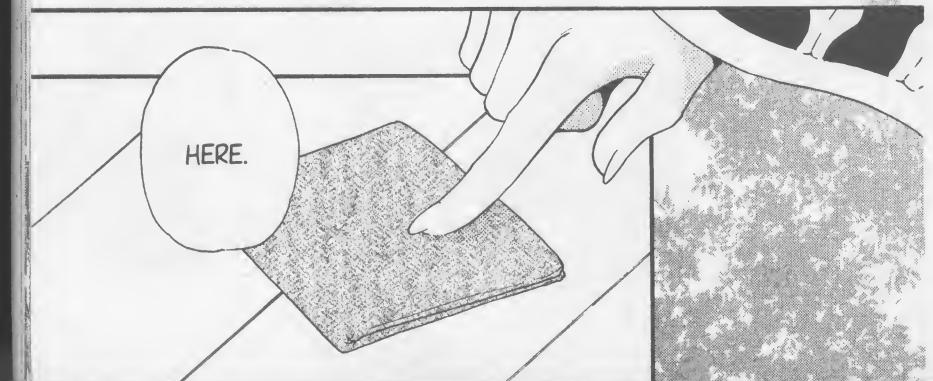
I talk about games a lot in this column, but when I do, I get a lot of letters that say, "I don't follow video games, so I don't understand. Talk about something else." But haven't more girls been playing video games lately? I wonder. I wonder... It's the same feeling as turning on the TV, so I feel like maybe it's a part of my life, like what else would I do but playing video games? In other words, when I'm not working, all I would do is play video games. So I didn't have anything to talk about aside from work or video games. (I don't feel sad at all saying that.) I don't even know how many PS memory cards I have anymore.













NOW,  
ALL  
I CAN  
DO...

...IS  
PRAY.

...I DON'T THINK  
I WANT HER  
NEAR ME.

AND  
I DON'T  
PLAN TO  
SEE HER.

BE HAPPY,  
KANA.

IT WOULD  
ONLY END  
IN SADNESS  
FOR HER...  
AND FOR ME.

I...  
DON'T  
WANT TO  
THINK...

...THAT THE  
LOVE HAS  
DISAPPEARED  
...

...BUT...

THE FEELINGS OF  
GUILT AND SHAME  
WON'T DISAPPEAR.

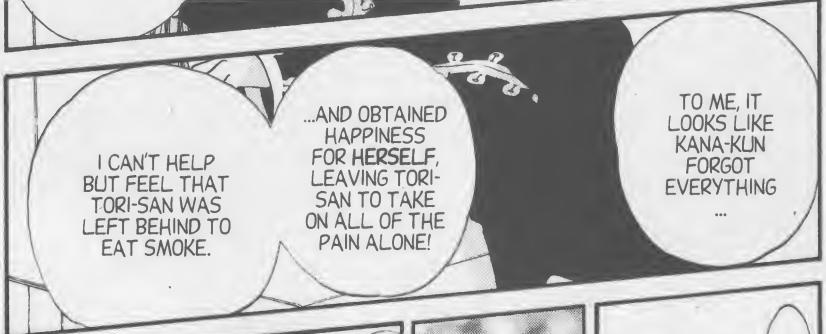
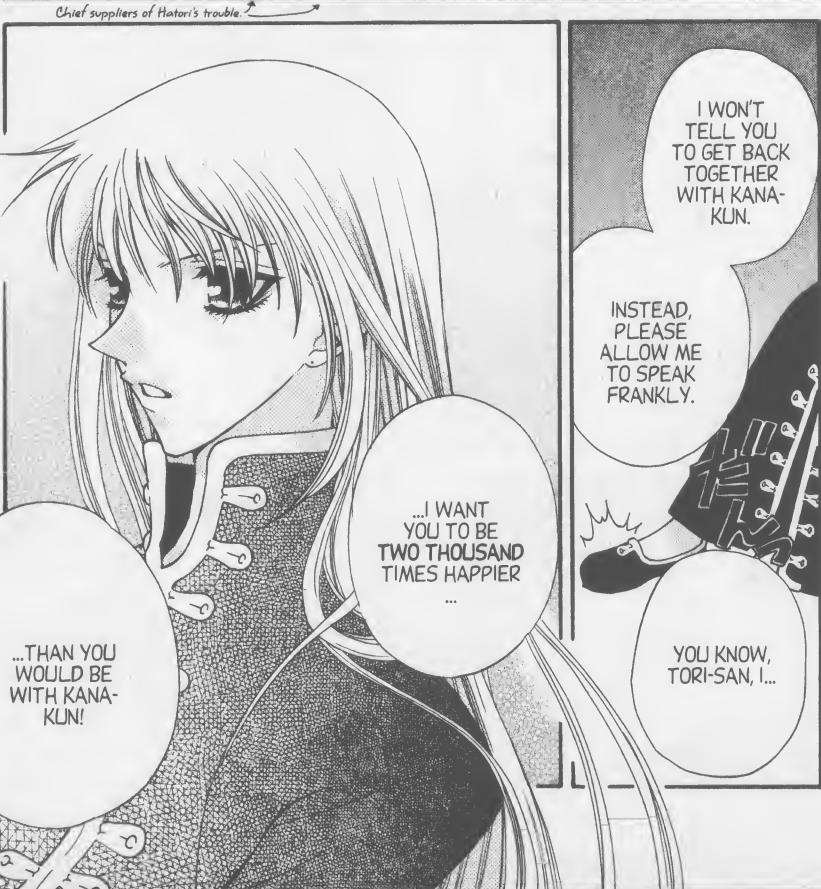
THEY'D SPREAD  
LIKE A CANCER...

...EATING  
AWAY AT  
THE LIGHT  
AND THE  
JOY THAT  
KANA ONCE  
BROUGHT ME.

...I WOULD  
ONLY MISS  
HER...

EVEN IF  
WE WERE  
TOGETHER  
...

I...



...WHEN I  
THINK OF  
THE PAIN WE  
CAN CAUSE  
SOMEONE WE  
LOVE...

...I FEEL  
THAT THE  
MEMORIES  
OF MY TIME  
WITH KANA  
ARE ENOUGH.

I THINK  
I CAN  
GET BY...

...WITHOUT  
ANYONE ELSE.

AH!  
THEY'RE  
BACK.

FOR US,  
THE  
CURSED  
MEMBERS  
OF THE  
ZODIAC...

...YOU CAN  
BE TRULY  
HAPPY  
WITH.

IF  
ONLY...

...YOU WOULD  
SHOW YUKI  
THAT KIND OF  
CONVICTION.

BUT,  
WELL...

HM...

ANYWAY...

I'M A  
NOVELIST. A  
NOVELIST.

SPOKEN  
LIKE A TRUE  
POET.

GOOD JOB,  
GURE-SAN!

A  
WOMAN  
WHO...

...WHEN  
YOU MEET A  
NEW WOMAN,  
I HOPE THAT  
SHE IS  
SOMEONE  
...

NEXT  
TIME...

THAT'S  
A VERY  
RECKLESS  
WISH.

A NEW  
WOMAN  
...

YOU  
WOULDN'T  
HAVE TO STAY  
DISTANT FROM,  
EVEN WHEN  
YOU'RE WITH  
HER.

Two  
thousand?  
Why two  
thousand?

Because  
one  
thousand  
times isn't  
enough!



FROM NOW ON,  
I'M GOING TO  
DEEPEN OUR  
BOND WITH  
MY FORCEFUL  
CONVICTION!

THIS IS  
THE BEST  
WAY!

WHORE YOU  
CALLING HIS  
FRIEND?!

I MEAN--!! YUKI  
IS MY YOUNGER  
BROTHER, AND  
I AM YUKI'S  
OLDER BROTHER!

YUKI!!!

BASED ON THIS  
INDISPUTABLE  
FACT, I WILL  
MAKE THIS  
DECLARATION!



...THE BEST  
WAY IS  
FOR HIM TO  
GIVE UP.

ALL THAT I  
CAN DO NOW...

...IS WATCH  
OVER  
THEM...



SO  
THAT  
THEY...



Mayu-  
chan-  
sensei!





## Chapter 27





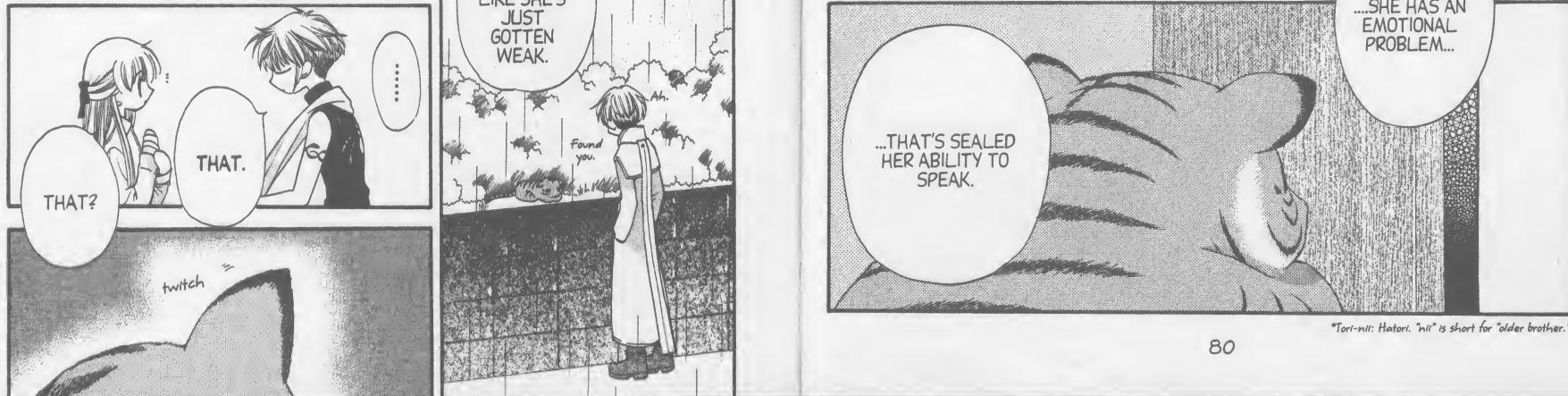
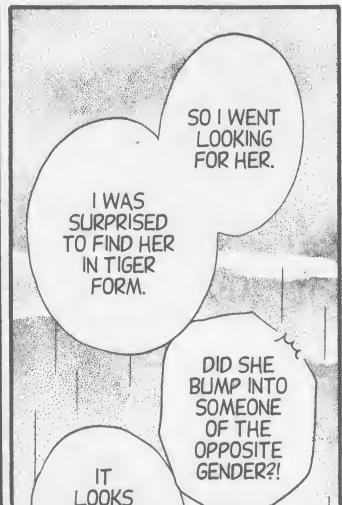
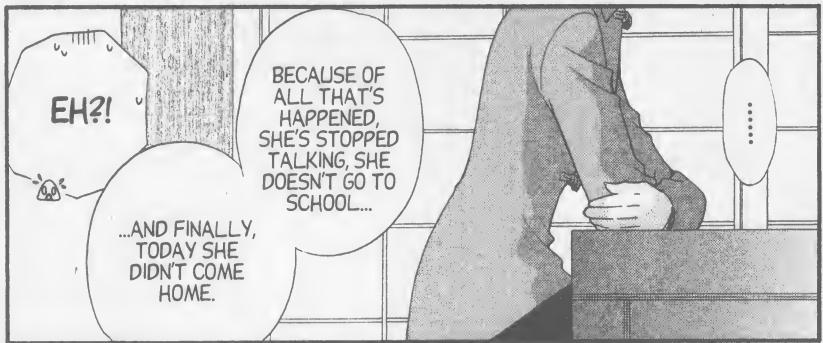
### ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 3

I feel like it's high time I introduce Kisa... Actually, now that I think of it, it's more like Yuki somehow summoned her. The way I see it, the hardships in our lives never disappear completely. There must be an exit waiting for us somewhere at the end. ...Well...I want to think that. Hmm, I wonder.









\*Tori-nii: Hatori. "nii" is short for "older brother."

Fruits Basket 5  
Part 3:

I played Tokimeki Memorial 2. I want-ed... a limited edition one... Although I'm ashamed to admit it. (Oops! I just admit-ted it!) Instead of Takaya-kun, I got Hikari-chan to call me Natsuki-kun. But no matter what hap-pened, the pronuncia-tion was weird, so in the middle I changed it to my real name. I thought, "Whoa, she said my name!" (laugh). Leave it to me to win goldfish for you!! (laugh) (That's a lie. Truth be told, I suck at it.) As for Kotoko-chan, for no reason, I face the screen and tell her I'm sorry. And I sing along with the opening. (Big Mistake.) My voice is low and I have a small range, so I'm no good at singing. I end up in falsetto. Macky's songs are so high I can't sing them very well either. Basically, I'm tone-deaf.



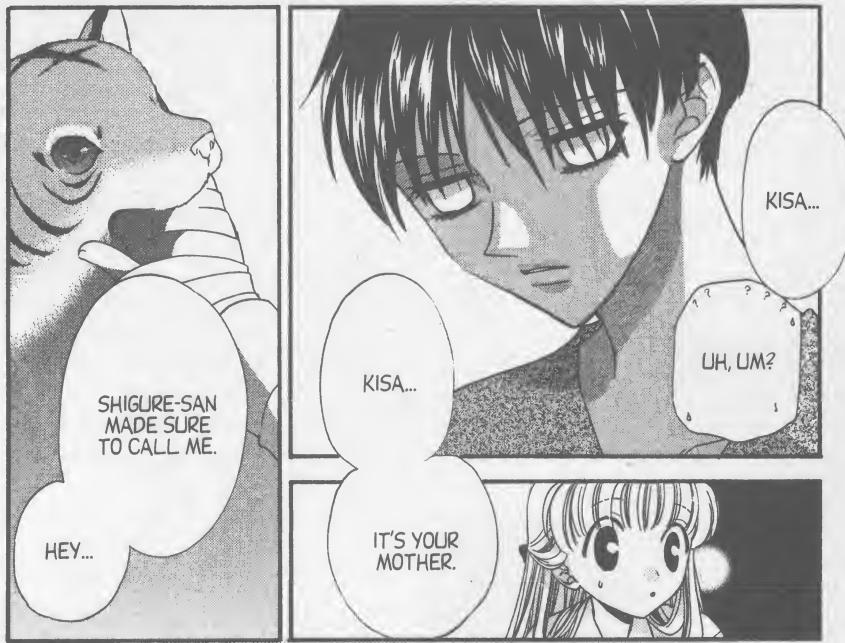
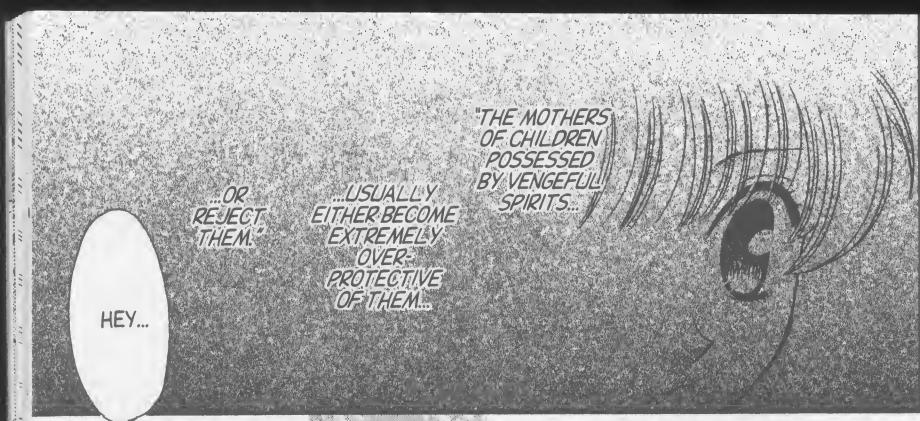
Editor's note: Tokimeki Memorial (Tokimeki for short) is a super-popular Japanese dating simulator series. TokiMemo 2 for the Playstation featured an "Emotional Voice System" that allowed two of the girls to actually call out the player's name. TokiMemo 2 has a sequel which incorporates Dance Dance Revolution!











I DIDN'T  
WANT  
ANYONE  
TO KNOW  
I WAS LIKE  
THAT.

I WOULD  
DESERPTELY  
MAKE UP  
STORIES TO  
TRY AND  
HIDE IT.

AND THEN...

I WAS SO  
SCARED.

...I FEEL  
EVEN MORE  
PATHETIC.

WHAT WOULD  
I DO IF SHE  
STARTED TO  
HATE ME?

I WAS SO  
SCARED.

I WOULD  
THINK THAT  
I WAS SO  
PATHETIC  
FOR BEING  
TEASED.

I WAS  
ASHAMED  
WHEN MOM  
FOUND OUT.

I  
WONDERED  
...

...I WOULD  
APOLOGIZE  
TO HER  
LIKE I WAS  
STUPID.

BUT AFTER  
A WHILE, MY  
MOM FOUND  
OUT.

AND THEN...

I WOULD  
FEEL...

...SO  
PATHETIC.

SHE  
CAN'T  
SAY IT.

I...  
COULDN'T  
SAY IT  
EITHER.







## Chapter 28

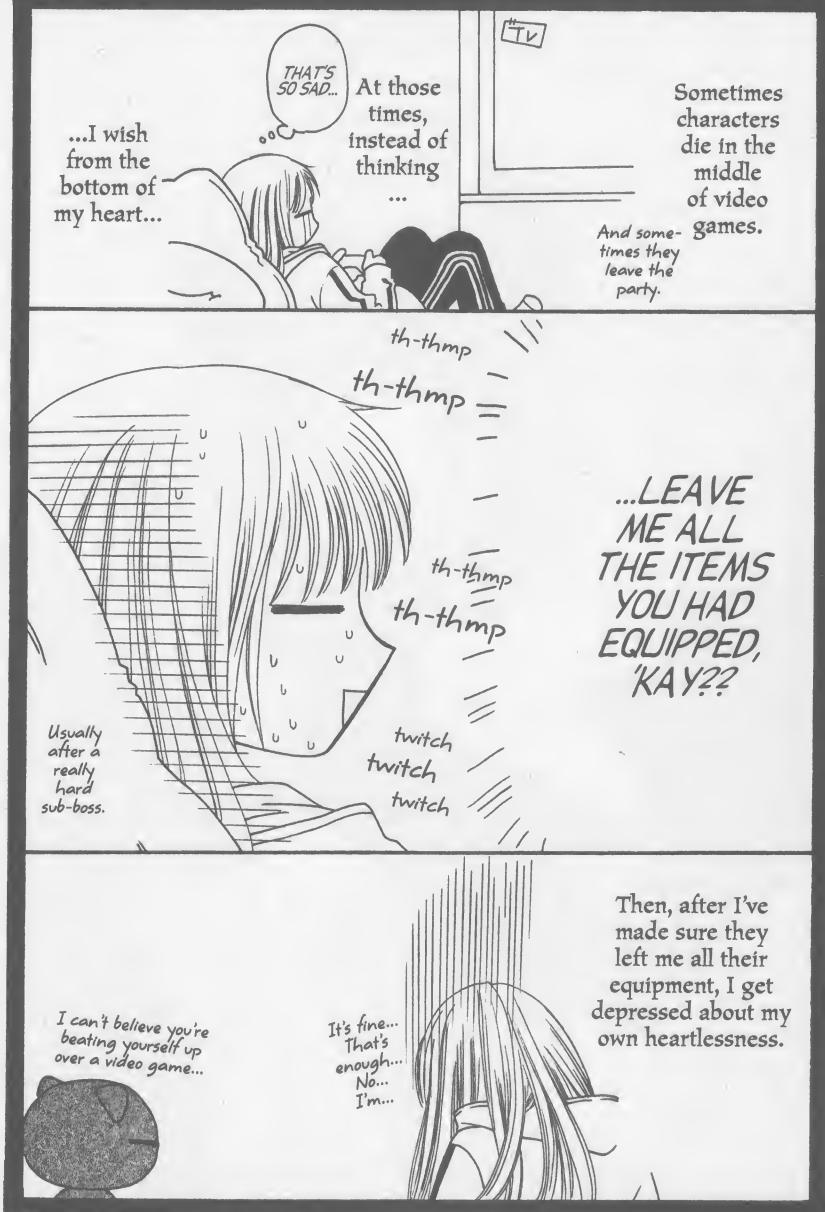




### ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 4

So people want to know what song Tohru was singing...  
Maybe it was "A\*daba\*a"...Would Tohru be too young  
to know it? Do all of you know it?

Sometimes they're gone for good...



I love you!!!

SHE CERTAINLY  
SEEMS TO BE  
ENJOYING IT.

hug



yo...

I'M HUNGRY.

AH! YES,  
I'LL Start  
DINNER!

KISA-SAN,  
WHAT SHOULD  
WE EAT TO-  
NIGHT?



STRANGELY,  
DURING  
THESE  
THREE  
DAYS...

...KISA-SAN  
HASN'T LEFT  
MY SIDE.



SHE'S NOT  
ANNOYED--BEING  
FOLLOWED  
LIKE THAT?

*It'd drive me  
crazy.*

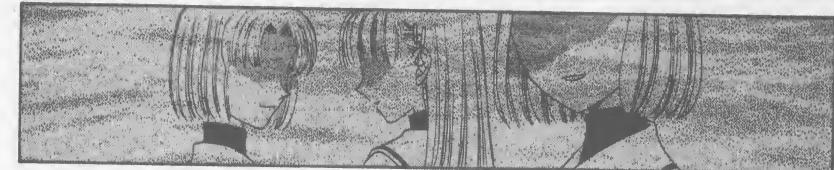


Fruits Basket 5  
Part 4:

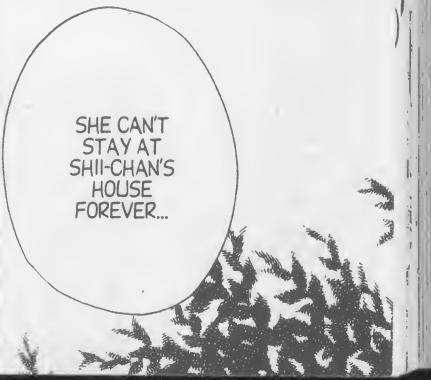
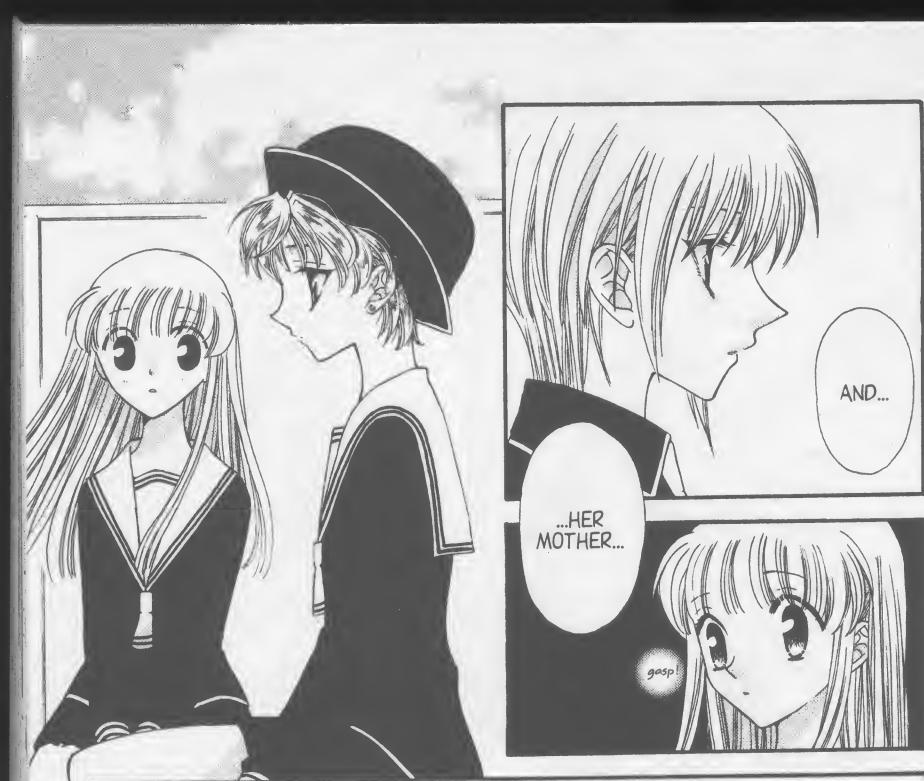
I played Hanagumi Columns 2\*. (I'm still talking about games...) At first, I thought, "Why don't they fall on their side...?" (That's Puyo Puyo.) Once I figured out the game play, I piled practice upon practice (laugh), and on Progression Mode I beat all but the highest level without incident. Anyway, it's hard!! That highest level is a killer! (laugh) Even my Sakura Wars mentor K-chan was saying "Hmm" about it...

But we were both talking excitedly, saying, "That thing from that thing? It's so great!?" (Thanks for always teaching me so many things, K-chan. I'm in your debt.) Puzzle games make my mind go blank. It feels as if only half of my brain is working. It's like exercise. And I'm in love with Moguri! (laugh)

\*Editor's note: Hanagumi Columns 2 is a Tetris-like puzzle game based on the Sakura Taisen franchise.









...WONDERING  
HOW I'D FEEL  
IF EVERYONE  
STARTED  
GIGGLING AT  
ME EVERY TIME  
I SAID SOME-  
THING.

ALL I CAN DO  
IS IMAGINE, SO  
THAT'S WHAT  
I DID...

YOU  
KNOW...  
I'VE...NEVER  
HAD THAT  
HAPPEN TO ME  
IN CLASS.

IT WAS A  
VERY...

...SAD  
FEELING.

...EVEN  
THOUGH  
THEY WERE  
IGNORING  
HER...

...WHENEVER  
KISA SAID ANY-  
THING, THEY'D  
LAUGH.

SHE WASN'T  
TRYING TO  
BE FUNNY,  
BUT THEY'D  
JUST START  
GIGGLING.

IT...

THEN...

BUT YOU  
KNOW...

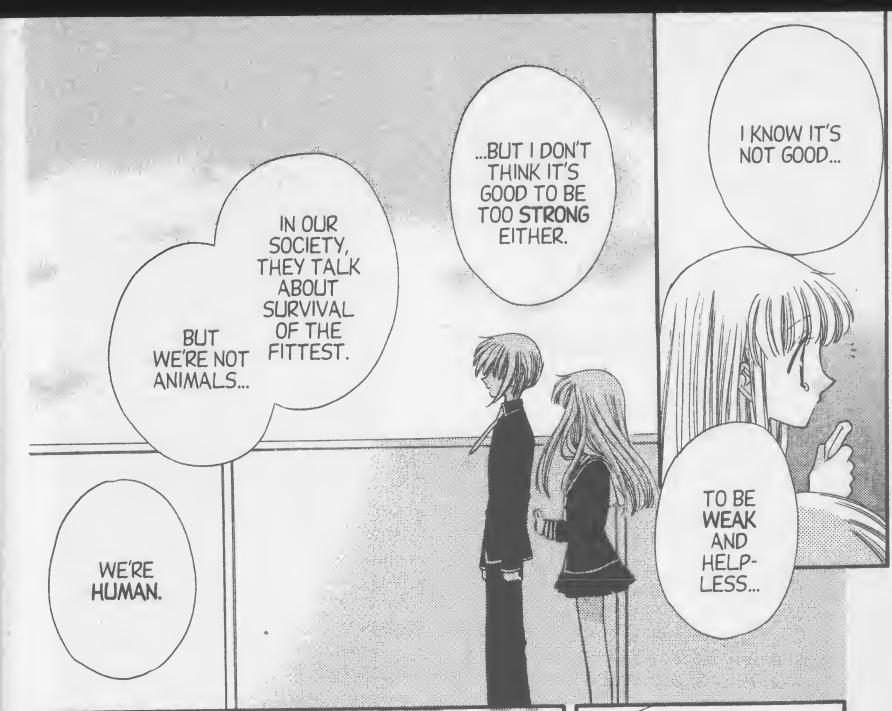
THEY SAID  
THAT KISA  
TRIED  
REALLY  
HARD.  
SHE TOLD  
THEM SHE  
CULDN'T  
DO ANYTHING  
ABOUT HER  
HAIR AND EYE  
COLOR.

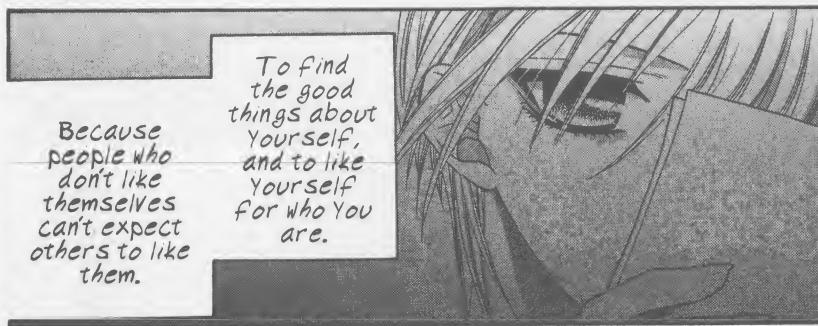
AND THEN...

...EVERYONE  
STARTED TO  
IGNORE HER.









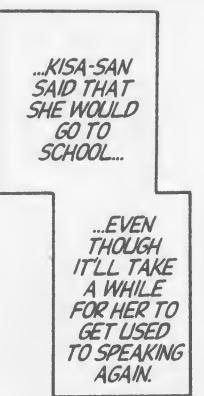
Sohma-san, how are you? Will you be coming to school soon?

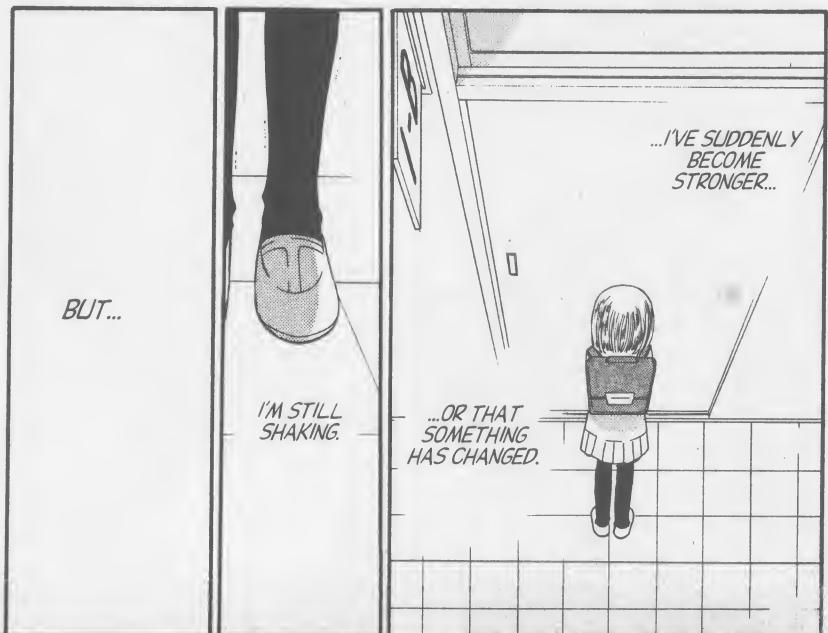
Everyone in class is waiting for you to come back.













## Chapter 29

WE DON'T HAVE  
TO LET THOSE  
FEARS STOP US.

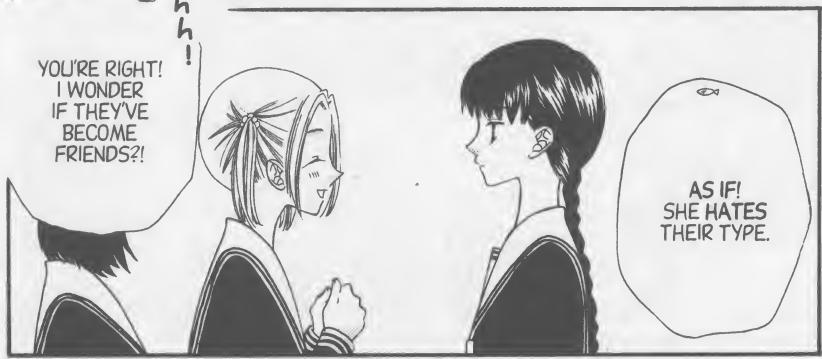


WHAT'S MOST  
IMPORTANT...



...IS THAT WE  
TRY TO RISE  
ABOVE OUR  
WEAKNESS.



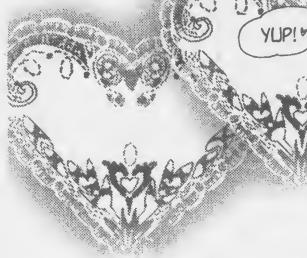


### ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 5

I don't know if they're good people or not, but every time Motoko-chan and company try to do something and it backfires, it makes me laugh so much that I can't help but like them. (Like Shouka\*.) Is that a mean thing to say? (laugh) I want to draw Megumi again. The strongest combo in Furuba, Saki & Megumi. (laugh)

\*A character in Takaya-sensei's previous series, *Tsubasa o Motsumono*.

I feel so grateful!



For Harada-sama,  
Araki-sama, Kawai-sama,  
Mother, Editor-sama, and  
everyone who reads this  
and supports me!

She's wearing her  
uniform from when she  
was in high school. It's  
slightly different from  
Kisa's middle school  
uniform.

Next is Momitchi.  
This has been Natsuki Takaya.



Fruits Basket 5  
Part 5:

Also, lately I've played... (Yup. Here she goes again about her video games...) I finished Chrono Cross. I thought of a lot of things. (Not about the game.) I finally got through Resident Evil: Code Veronica, too. By far, the monsters I hate the most are the Hunters... Whenever a Hunter turned up, I screamed. I'm still in the middle of Legend of Dragoon. Better hurry up because Grandia 2 is coming out, and in the summer is Final Fantasy (isn't that wrong?). I have so much to do (laugh). When a FF game comes out, I drop everything to play it, so it's very dangerous.

Will the Crystals be revived, or not? (Am I wrong?) Aahh, those were the days. The Crystal was shattered; it brings back memories...

(She gazes off into the distance...)

The darkness with the paladin and Gilgamesh and Excalibur and the fresh fish... (Gazing even farther into the distance...)





"Prince Yuki" is the name for the Yuki Sohma fan club that exists within Kaibara High School.

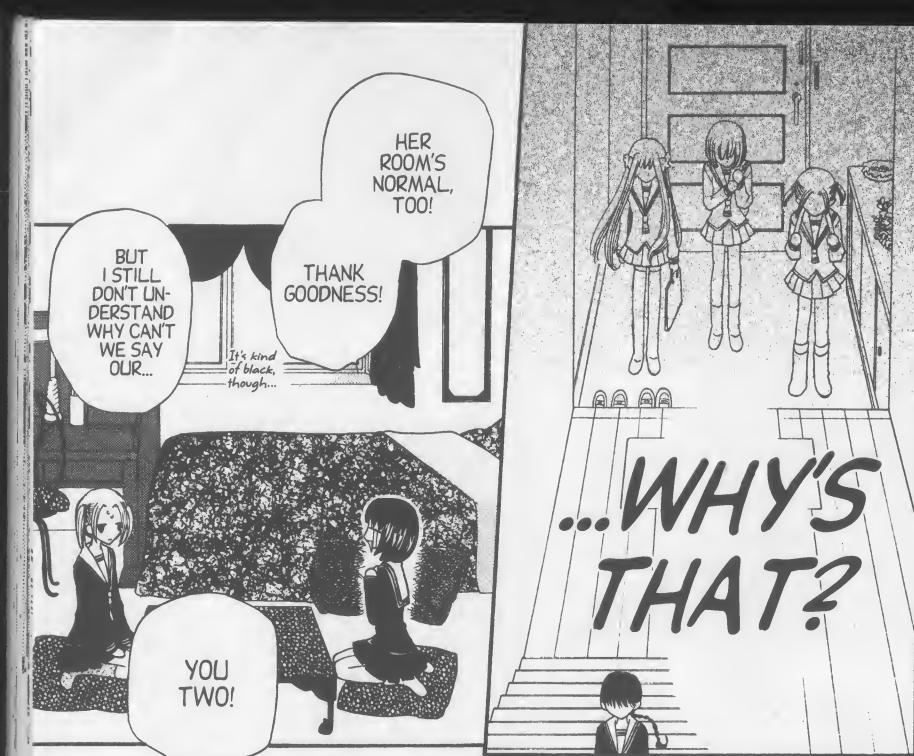






...I SEE A CREEPY OLD WESTERN-STYLE HOUSE COVERED IN LOTS OF IVY, AND FOR SOME REASON THE SKY AROUND IT IS ALWAYS CLOUDY.





...WHY'S THAT?







THAT'S TOO MUCH TO THE POINT!!

HANAJIMA-SENPAI, DO YOU HAVE A WEAKNESS?



WHAT?!

WHAT?!

WHAT?

...I DO.

...HEAVY  
MATTER...

SUCH A...

HATE  
TO ASK  
QUESTIONS  
AND RUN,  
B-B-BUT SHE'S  
RIGHT! YUP!  
HONESTLY!!  
REALLY!!

That's  
right!

YOUR  
NAMES...

IT WOULD  
BE RUDE  
OF US TO STAY  
TOO LONG!!

LET US FINISH OUR  
BUSINESS AND BE  
ON OUR WAY, L-LIKE  
A REFRESHING GUST  
OF WIND IN THE  
MONTH OF MAY!!

NOW  
THAT  
YOU  
MENTION  
IT...

...I STILL  
HAVEN'T  
HEARD...

Now,  
now!

IT'S NOT  
JEALOUSY!  
WE'RE  
RIGHTFULLY  
ANGRY!!

ACTIONS  
SPAWNED FROM  
JEALOUSY  
ARE QUITE  
UNBECOMING...

Grr...  
HOW ABOUT  
THIS? WILL  
YOU ASK HER...  
...TO PUT  
A LITTLE  
MORE  
DISTANCE  
BETWEEN  
HERSELF  
AND YUKI?  
THAT IS UP  
TO THE TWO  
OF THEM...

YEAH!  
WHO DOES  
SHE THINK  
SHE IS?!

WHAT MAKES  
HER THINK YUKI-  
KUN WANTS TO  
BE AROUND HER?  
SHE MAKES ME  
SICK!!

THAT  
SOUNDS  
LIKE  
JEALOUSY  
TO ME...

...WHAT  
ABOUT YOU?  
WHAT DO  
YOU KNOW  
ABOUT  
TOHRU-KUN?

IT SADDENS  
ME TO KNOW  
THAT SHE IS  
LOOKED DOWN  
UPON...

...MERELY  
FOR HER  
ASSOCIATION  
WITH SOME-  
THING LIKE  
YUKI...

BUT TO  
LOOK FOR MY  
WEAKNESS...

...IS A VERY  
CHILDISH  
WAY TO DO  
THINGS...

YOU ARE ALL  
IN THE YUKI  
SOHMA FAN  
CLUB, ARE  
YOU NOT...?

YUKI!!

YOU MUST  
HATE THAT  
TOHRU-KUN  
HAS GOTTEN  
TO BE SUCH A  
GOOD FRIEND  
OF YUKI SOHMA  
RECENTLY...

UM!

THAT'S DIRTY!  
USING WAVES  
TO READ OUR  
MINDS!!

I AM NOT  
READING  
YOUR  
MINDS...

ALL  
RIGHT,  
GIRLS...

IT CAN'T BE  
HELPED.  
WE'VE BEEN  
FOUND OUT,  
SO LET'S  
STOP BEATING  
AROUND THE  
BUSH.

YOU'RE RIGHT.  
WE ABSOLUTELY  
DESPISE THE  
WITCH...I MEAN,  
TOHRU HONDA.

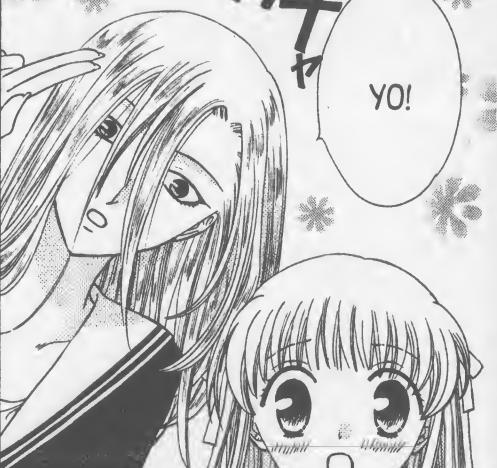
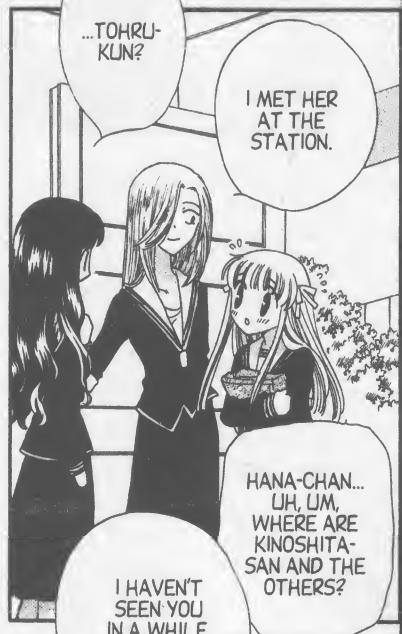
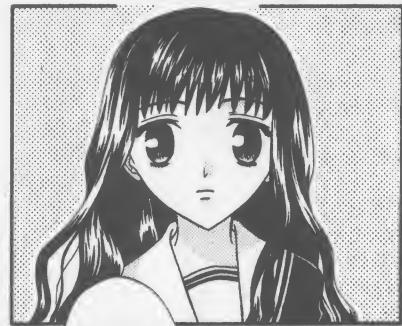
ARE YOU...  
SCARED...?

...BUT I  
AM IN  
THE WAY  
OF YOUR  
DOING THAT...

AIE!



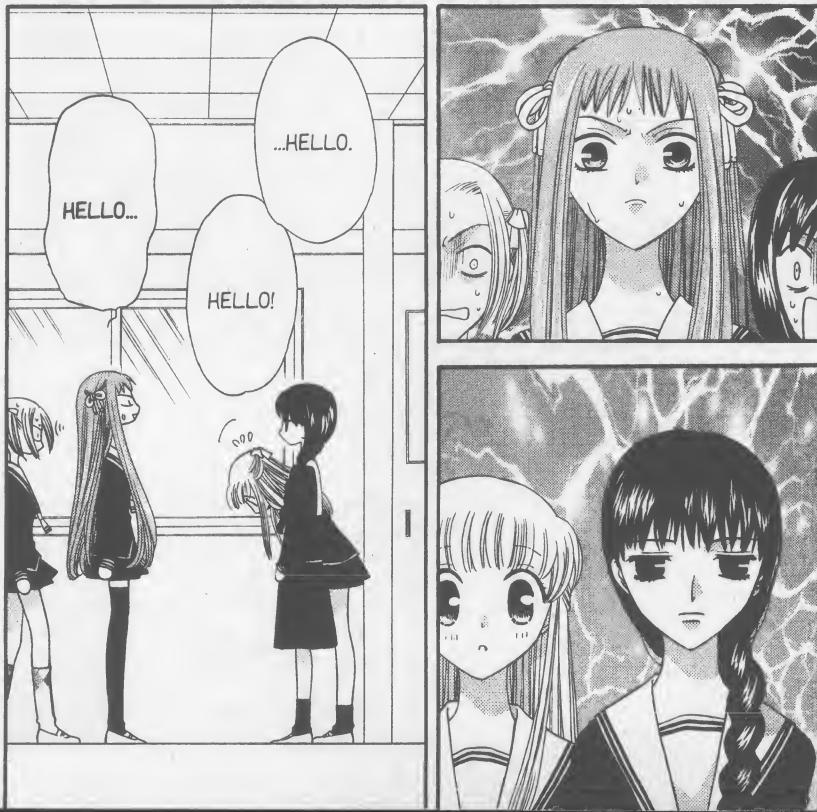
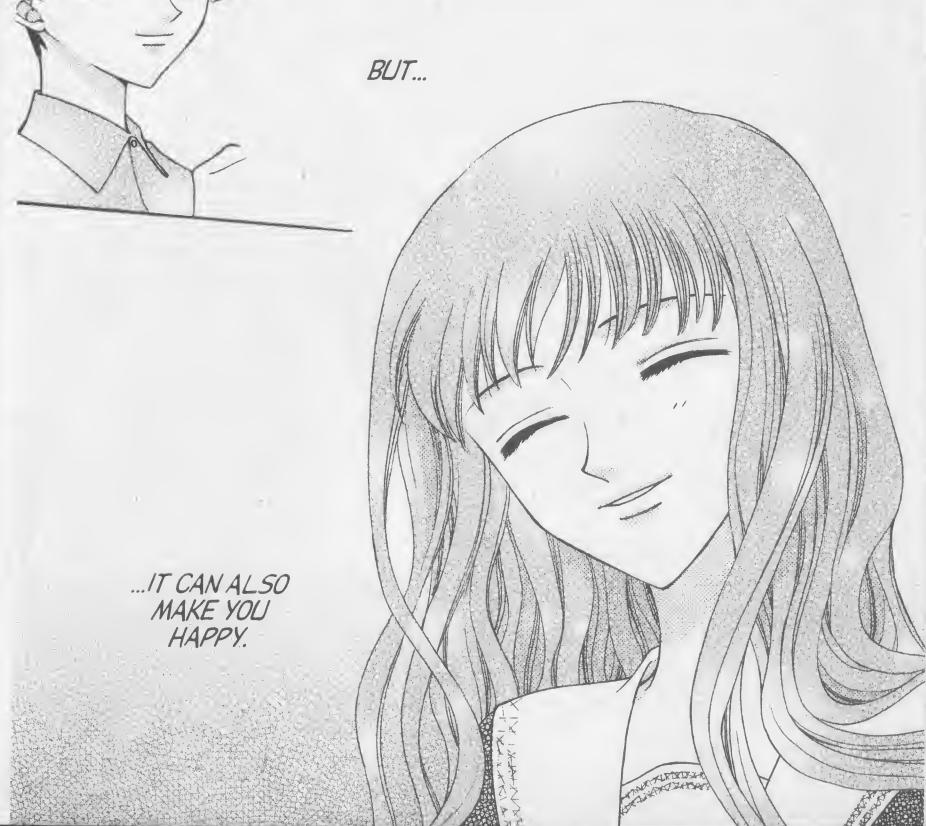




Sup?  
Ah!

YES, IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME, MEGUMI-SAN.







## Chapter 30



Fruits Basket 5  
Part 6:

Strangely, I'm really into candy lately. Cotton candy in particular. I like to keep some on hand to munch on. Only problem is, I've been making myself sick! (You're eating too much, duh.) Of course my brain tells me, "you've had enough!" But... (laugh) My favorite candy is gum. I'm always chewing it. As for Japanese sweets, I like things like dango\*. But I don't like azuki beans\*, so when I have a taryaki\* or something, I'll squeeze all the paste out and then eat it. (You're probably wondering why I even bother trying to eat it.) The only thing I can eat even with the bean-paste in it is kashiwa mochi.\* When it comes to cake, I'm a cheesecake kind of girl. Yup. (Why am I talking about my favorite foods...?) As for rice, I like it with thick flavoring. So if it's too bland, I don't like it.

\*dango: dumplings of mochi (a chewy dough made of rice flour)

\*azuki beans: sweet red beans used in desserts throughout Asia

\*taryaki: fish-shaped pancakes filled with azuki bean paste

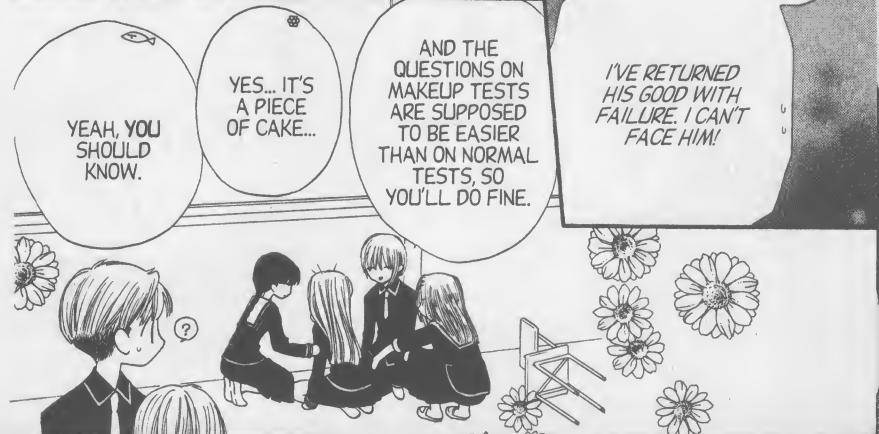
\*Kashiwa mochi: mochi balls filled with azuki beans



ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 6

What phrase were Shigure and Momiji using? Good question... (I just like to make them sing.) Oh, by the way, Tohru fell down once, but after that, she managed to walk home.











\*Tohru's polite, even when she sighs!



I'll try my best to clean Tohru's share!!

Where does this kid come from?  
Well, He is adorable.

Whatever he's so cute.

SO TODAY...

...I'LL BE WORKING IN HER PLACE!

THIS CAN'T BE. SURELY MY EYES DECEIVE ME! KYO-KUN, WHAT CAN YOU POSSIBLY BE DOING?

CAN'T YOU TELL FROM LOOKING?

simmer  
simmer

EH?!

OKAY, YOU KNOW, ABOUT TODAY--

TOHRU IS STAYING HOME SICK!

LEAVE IT TO ME!!

MOMITCHI, YOU'RE SO LOUD!

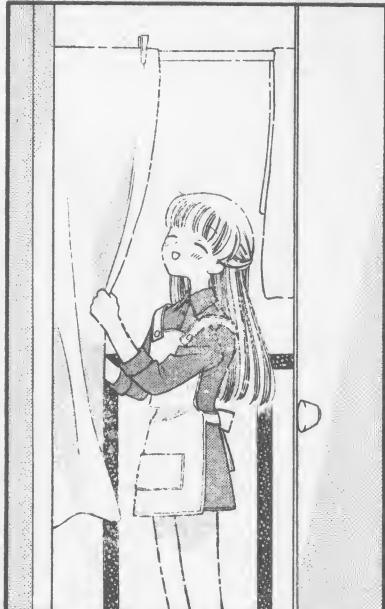
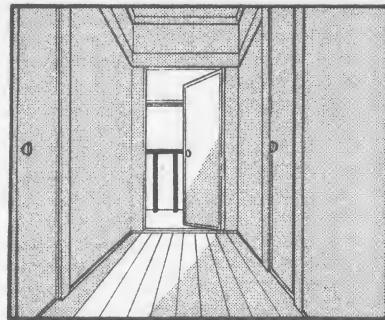
IS SHE OKAY?! IS SHE GETTING ENOUGH REST?!!

TOHRU HAS A COLD?!

EH?  
?!

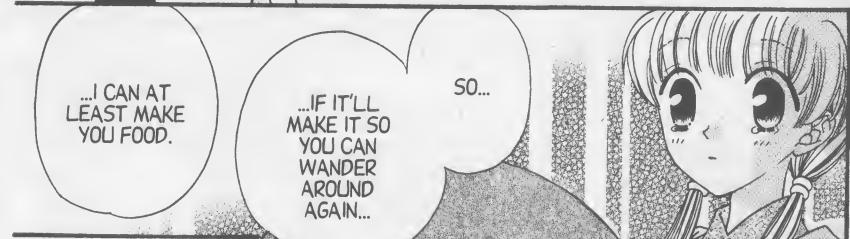
SO SHE WON'T BE GOING OVER THERE TODAY.

AH! I SEE!  
OKAY, I GOT IT!!









THANK YOU...

... KYO-KUN.

IT'S ALL  
RIGHT. IT  
DOESN'T HURT  
AT ALL.

BUT SHII-  
CHAN WAS  
SAYING IT  
HURTS! HE  
SAID IT HURT  
A WHOLE  
LOT!!

HE SAID HE  
KEPT GETTING  
THE WRONG  
PLACE!!

I DID  
THAT ON  
PURPOSE.

IF TOHRU  
STARTS  
TO HURT,  
STOP, OKAY!

THANK YOU...

YOU BEING  
LEVEL-  
HEADED  
WOULD BE  
CREEPY.

THANK YOU...

... KYO-KUN.

IT'S ALL  
RIGHT. IT  
DOESN'T HURT  
AT ALL.

BUT SHII-  
CHAN WAS  
SAYING IT  
HURTS! HE  
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A WHOLE  
LOT!!

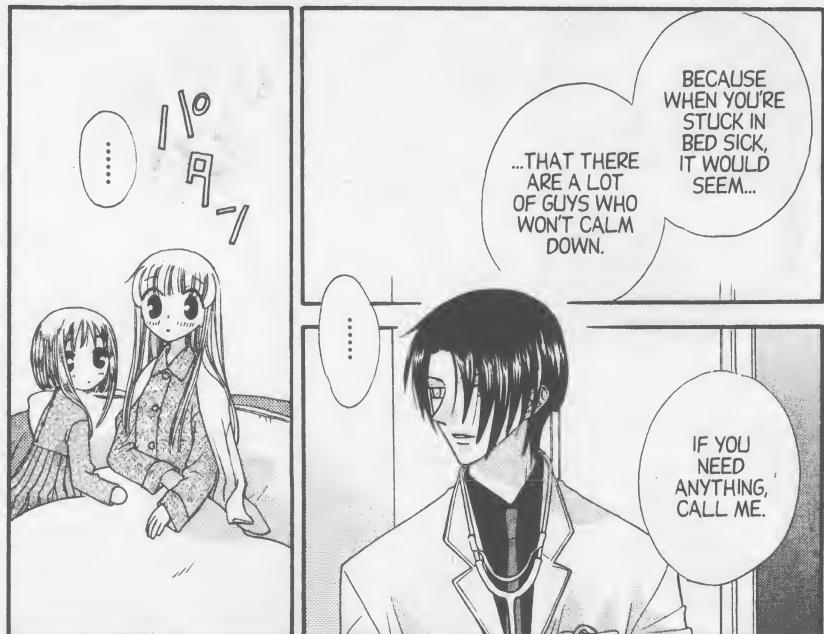
HE SAID HE  
KEPT GETTING  
THE WRONG  
PLACE!!

I DID  
THAT ON  
PURPOSE.

IF TOHRU  
STARTS  
TO HURT,  
STOP, OKAY!

THANK YOU...

YOU BEING  
LEVEL-  
HEADED  
WOULD BE  
CREEPY.



\*oji= uncle. Usually reserved for middle-aged men and not someone in their twenties.

WANTING TO GET BETTER...

HELL  
NO.  
Shut up!  
Go away,  
kid!

What,  
what is  
that,  
Kyo?  
Are you  
training  
to be a  
bride?!

NOT FOR  
MYSELF...

...BUT FOR  
OTHER  
PEOPLE...

...IS A  
WONDERFUL  
FEELING.

She might  
make some-  
thing for  
you to thank  
you!

Huh?

Haa-san,  
what would  
you like to eat  
of Tohru-  
kun's home  
cooking?

THAT'S GOOD.  
IN THE  
MEANTIME,  
HERE.

HUH?

AH!  
YES! OF  
COURSE!

COME IN  
NOW?

CAN  
I...

WHAT...  
DID HATORI  
SAY?

HE SAID I'LL  
PROBABLY  
RECOVER  
SOON.

I GATHERED  
QUESTIONS  
TO HELP YOU  
PREPARE FOR  
THE MAKEUP  
TEST.

THANK  
YOU SO  
MUCH!!

IF YOU  
CAN  
ANSWER  
THESE,  
I'M SURE  
YOU'LL  
DO FINE.

WHEN YOU'RE  
FEELING BETTER,  
WOULD YOU  
LIKE TO GO OVER  
THEM WITH ME?

EH?!

AH...

Next time in...

# Fruits Basket

6

Natsuki Takaya

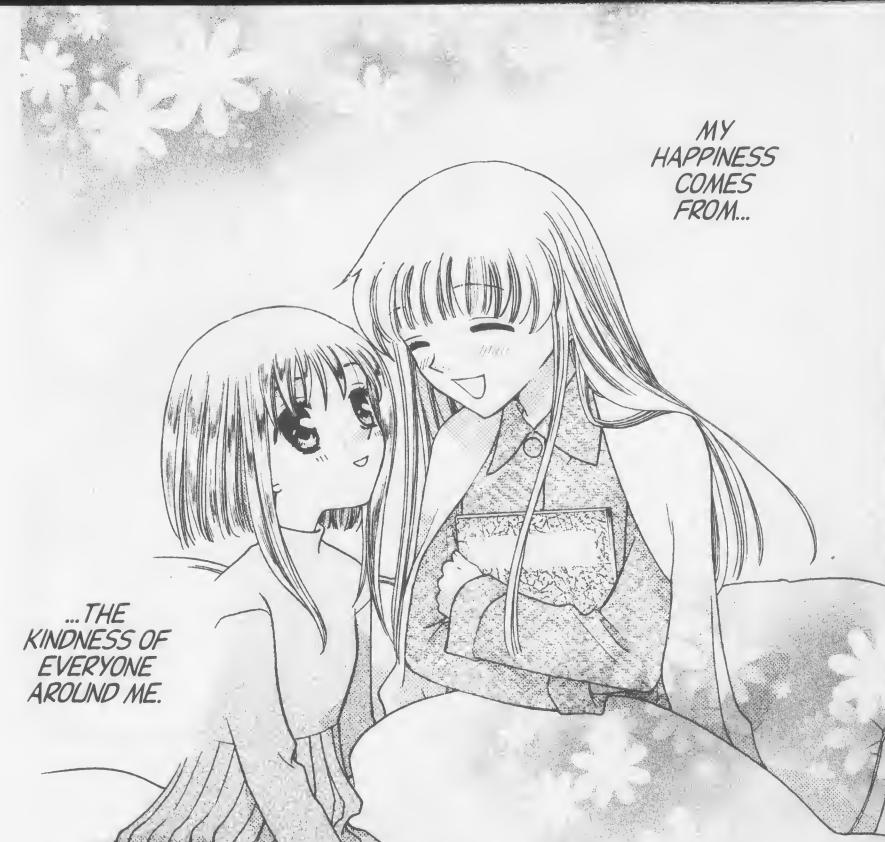
## Secrets & Lies...

It's been raining for days on end and Tohru can't help worrying about Kyo's crankiness. On a particularly soggy day at the Sohma household, out of the rain steps Kyo's master! It is time for the Cat to learn the truth!! The drama is almost too much to bear in the 6th volume of the ever-popular Fruits Basket.

Fruits Basket Volume 6  
Available December 2004

COMIC REP

MY  
HAPPINESS  
COMES  
FROM...



...THE  
KINDNESS OF  
EVERYONE  
AROUND ME.



To be continued in volume 6...

**26) Do Yuki-kun and other characters have likes and dislikes?**

Oh, they have their personal preferences, all right. I've been thinking how it'd be nice to write about such things. (But this is still pending...)

**27) How are the sales of Shigure's novels? Is he considered a fairly popular writer?**

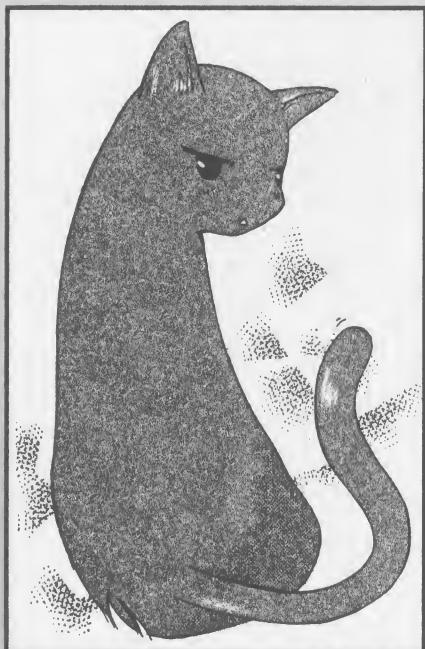
At the moment, the books he wrote under the name "Karitani Noa" (Like *Summer-Colored Sigh*) seems to be the most popular. Incidentally, that's not the only pen name Shigure uses. Shigure will do whatever he can to not lose to Ayame. Seems like he's fairly popular.

**FRUITS BASKET- Original Drama CD**

**28) The "Fruits Basket" CD has an original story, but why did you feature a crazy subject like nagashi soumen? (Note-see the omake comic in vol. 4!)**

Well, it's pretty much because I was thinking to myself how I'd never actually had any nagashi soumen. I certainly made things difficult for myself by making a story about that, huh?

**29) Did you also write the short, comedy story that's included in the interval of the main story?**



Yup. It was because I was practically itching to make the CD more fun and laughable. I feel that things that are fun make people happy.

**30) In that short story, what on earth was the thing that Kagura made?**

Obviously a cat backpack! She has such marvelous workmanship that she's a celebrity in her neighborhood... possibly. (laugh)

**31) Any last messages for your fans?**

Thank you so very much for reading! As the Fruits Basket characters keep grabbing for each other, laughing and crying, let's keep walking down the road of life. Please keep watching over me.

**Interview with Takaya-sensei**  
Part 3

**22) Can members of the *juunishi* (12 zodiac animals) only be born if a close relative (parent/sibling/step-parent, etc...) is also one of the *juunishi*? Can "outside" Sohma members give birth to *juunishi* children, or only "inside" Sohmas?**

Being directly related to another *juunishi* and being "inside" or "outside" aren't factors in when a new *juunishi* is born. It's all a matter of timing. Basically, it's random. Right now all of the *juunishi* members are pretty close in age, but in the history of the Sohma family, this is unusual.

**23) Will Yuki's and Ayame's parents be making an appearance?**

At this time, they are scheduled to show up.

**24) Do any of the characters in *Fruits Basket* participate in school clubs?**

Hmm... Now that I think about it, I guess there isn't anyone who does club activities... I guess none of them have enough of an interest in such activities to get involved. Some of them do take extracurricular lessons, though. Like Kyo. Momiji takes lessons, too... But don't ask me to draw it! It's hard enough for me to tell the stories I'm already telling without getting into that!

**25) It's been established that Kyo-kun hates onions, leeks and miso, but why these three things?**

He doesn't like the taste of onions. He hates the smell of leeks. And like many kids, he dislikes miso and other stinky bean curd products.



# Year of the Boar: Going Whole Hog



## Boar

**Years:** 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019, 2031, 2043

**Positive Qualities:** reliable, sincere, tolerant, caring, industrious, persistent, brave

**Negative Qualities:** shy, one-track mind, short tempered, headstrong

**Suitable Jobs:** teacher, nurse, researcher

**Compatible With:** Rabbits, Sheep, Tiger (and Cat(s))

**Must Avoid:** Snake, Monkey, other Boars

**Ruling Hours:** 9 PM to 11 PM

**Season:** Fall

**Ruling Month:** November

**Sign Direction:** North-Northwest

**Fixed Element:** Water

**Corresponding Western Sign:** Scorpio

Another interesting point to bring up about Boars is that women born in this year tend to be neat freaks—especially where their home is concerned. You would be hard pressed to find a speck of dirt or dust anywhere in sight. Male Boars on the other hand will never be able to shake the troublesome stigma that all they would rather do is wallow in the mud all day.

Even so, Boars of both sexes have a genuine thirst for knowledge and are typically well-informed individuals. They are hard working and have almost too much energy at times. Boars are often taken advantage of because they can never say "no" when asked for help. Sadly, this tends to lead them into money problems at some point or another in their life. And while Boars do manage to find a way to crawl out of their rut, they can never quite seem to keep themselves out of it due to their inability to see the sky for the trees.

### Celebrity Boars:

Christina Applegate

Tom Arnold

David Boreanaz

Val Kilmer

Stephen King

Winona Ryder

Miss Piggy

The Boar is the last of the twelve great animals of the Zodiac. While it can generally be assumed that the Boar was off feeding its face for most of the great race, one lesser-known version of the fable centers on the animals being asked to tell why they deserved to reside at the top of the Zodiac. While the Bull said it helped the farmer plow the fields and the Snake talked about how smart it was, all the boar could come up with was that the meat on its bones tasted good to eat. Sure this might not sound like a very positive thing to say, but at least the Boar was being honest.

Boars are born with an inner strength that few others can match. Offsetting the Boar's bravery is their horribly short temper that makes it all to easy for a Boar to fly into a rage at the slightest provocation. Luckily, Boars generally dislike having arguments and seldom harbor any long-term grudges against anyone that has the unfortunate luck of crossing them. For anyone lucky enough to befriend a Boar though, they are often greatly rewarded as Boars are extremely loyal and prefer to have a smaller, more close knit group of friends that are with them a lifetime.

These three panels are early drafts for Takaya-sensei's previous work, *Tubasa O Motsu Mono (Those With Wings)*. You can see how much the designs influenced her newest work, the ever-popular *Fruits Basket*!



\* Note: If you were born in January or early February, then chances are you are probably the animal of the preceding year. The only way to know for certain is to know on which day Chinese New Year's was held. Example: 1983 actually starts on February 13, so anyone born between January 1 and February 12 is still a Dog.